

Commission would take place within 210 days of enactment of the act. It is clear that first meeting as well as the actual 2-year duration of the Commission should be based on the date on which the first formal meeting is held. This is the practical effect of the budgeting process, to which the Commission is bound.

Mr. GRASSLEY. We are all bound by the budgeting process and must adjust our actions accordingly. I have one other question for my colleague, regarding the Commission membership requirements. I understand that the membership provision of the Commission was intended to preclude from continued membership a person who had been appointed to that position due to his or her capacity as an officer or employee of a government. Would the Senator from Alabama explain to me who this provision is meant to preclude from membership on the Commission?

Mr. HEFLIN. I will be happy to help to clear up any questions which may have been raised regarding membership on the Commission. It is my understanding that this provision is intended to preclude from continued membership on the Commission those Commissioners who are appointed based solely on the capacity of the governmental office for which they hold. If that Commissioner should leave the governmental position during their term then they can no longer serve on the Commission.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS, 1996

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the underlying pending business, H.R. 1817.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1817) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1996, and for other purposes.

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, as soon as we can get order, I will ask unanimous consent that the chairman of the full Appropriations Committee be recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 1834

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question occurs on amendment No. 1834 offered by the Senator from New Mexico. Under the previous order, there will be 4 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the vote on the motion to table the amendment.

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I would like to propound a unanimous-consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES— H.R. 1854

Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, I will propound a unanimous-consent agree-

ment on the legislative appropriations bill that we passed last night.

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate insist on its amendments to H.R. 1854, request a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and that the Chair appoint conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Presiding Officer (Mr. KYL) appointed Mr. MACK, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. HATFIELD, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. MIKULSKI conferees on the part of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. PACKWOOD addressed the Chair.

Mr. BURNS. I yield to the Senator from Oregon for the purpose of an announcement.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Mr. PACKWOOD. Mr. President, the Finance Committee has not yet had its hearing of Lawrence Summers to be Under Secretary of the Treasury. We will be convening the Finance Committee as soon as the last vote is over. I would appreciate it if Members can get there reasonably promptly. It is a controversial nomination. I hope it will not take a long time. We will be taking it up at about a quarter to 1, whenever we finish with the vote. I thank my friend from Montana.

#### MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS, 1996

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I think we have 4 minutes equally divided. I yield 1 minute to the Senator from Idaho, [Mr. KEMPTHORNE].

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. KEMPTHORNE. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the Bingham amendment. During a hearing before the Armed Services Committee earlier this year, Defense Secretary Bill Perry testified that under the present budget, it will take over 50 years to renovate many of the family housing units currently in use by the armed services of America. We know we are falling behind in readiness. The military construction projects that will be canceled by the proposed amendments will help address these quality-of-life and readiness problems.

We have just gone through three difficult rounds of the base closure process. The bases and the facilities that have survived are the keepers. We need to make investments to maintain the infrastructure that literally serves as the foundation of our armed services. Therefore, Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote to table the Bingham amendment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I yield 1 minute to the Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, I join my cochairman of the State National

Guard Caucus, Senator BOND of Missouri, and our colleagues in opposing the Bingham amendment. The military construction funds this amendment seeks to delete are not frivolous. They are necessary to the very backbone of our military.

In my State alone, these funds go to build barracks to move our soldiers out of the World War II clapboard barracks. Why is it not a Pentagon priority to replace these barracks and provide a better quality of life for our soldiers?

The citizens of this country are well aware of the military drawdown in this country, but they have not asked our young men and women to stop volunteering their services, whether it be full-time active duty or part time as a reservist or guardsman.

Mr. President, I have watched them leave our communities, and many of them do not come back. I watched the best surgeons in my State and scrub nurses go to the Persian Gulf, and they did their job. Let us not turn our back on these people now. Vote to table this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico has 2 minutes.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, first, I ask unanimous consent that Senator FEINGOLD be added as a cosponsor on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I yield 1 minute to my colleague from Arizona, who is also a cosponsor.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, the fact is that these are nice projects. They are in the 5-year plan of the Pentagon, but they are not required at this time. There is simply additional spending that is not necessary. There are far higher priorities for us to be able to meet our national security challenges than adding money for military construction at this time. They are good projects. They are not needed at this time, and if we are going to spend \$300 million additionally, I could find seven other areas that are much higher in priority than this one. If we are going to show some fiscal responsibility, we ought to start now.

Mr. BINGAMAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, we are spending extra time voting on this amendment since we just voted to rescind \$16.4 billion in domestic spending. I think that was a courageous vote; it was a hard choice.

What this amendment that we are now considering does is it says that we will allow \$474 million of add-ons to military construction, but we will not allow an additional \$300 million above that. This is not a question of funding the National Guard. There is plenty of money in this bill to fund the National Guard needs. This is not a question of family housing. There is plenty of money in this bill to fund the family housing needs of the military.

What we are saying is deficit reduction has to matter, even when you are